

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A spring steel comprising:

C: 0.5 to 0.8% by mass (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,

Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,

Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,

V: 0.5% or less $[[()]]$ including 0% $[[()]]$,

P: 0.02% or less $[[()]]$ excluding 0% $[[()]]$,

S: 0.02% or less $[[()]]$ excluding 0% $[[()]]$,

Al: 0.01% or less $[[()]]$ excluding 0% $[[()]]$, and

Fe and inevitable impurities, wherein

the Si content and the Cr content satisfy the following formula (1):

$$0.8 \times [\text{Si}] + [\text{Cr}] \geq 2.6 \dots (1)$$

wherein, [Si] and [Cr] respectively represent the Si content (%) and the Cr content (%).

2. (Currently Amended) The spring steel according to claim 1, wherein the Mn content is 0.5% to 1.5% ~~or more~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The spring steel according to claim 1, wherein the Cr content is 1.3% to 4.0% ~~or more~~.